

for navigating to additional records, and on-screen controls 602 for activating other functions of device 100.

[0164] In one embodiment, screen 600 may be skipped entirely, so that the invention proceeds directly to screen 610, depicted in Fig. 6B, in response to the user entering a keystroke.

[0165] Since the user is attempting to look up "Birch, John", he or she first presses the "B" key. At this point, screen 610 is displayed, as depicted in Fig. 6B. Screen 610 shows the results of a filtering operation on the directory using the letter "B", and therefore includes records from the directory that begin with the letter "B". Additional records that begin with "B" may be available, and may be accessed by scrolling. The filter is applied to multiple fields, so that the displayed records include those having a first name beginning with "B" (Biff Henderson), as well as those having a last name beginning with "B" (John Birch, CJ Bush). In one embodiment, records having a company name, or initials, or other relevant field that begins with "B" would also be displayed. The first telephone number in the first displayed record is selected (as indicated by highlight 604), although in alternative embodiments a different record might be selected.

[0166] Screen 610 also includes lookup string field 605 that displays the lookup string, consisting of the characters entered thus far. Accordingly, a "b" is currently displayed, indicating that the user has entered the letter "B". As the user enters additional characters, field 605 helps to remind the user of the criteria on which the directory is being filtered, and also reduces user confusion when he

or she backspaces and types additional characters. Again, in an alternative embodiment, lookup string field 605 is not displayed, or the display of lookup string field 605 is configurable by the user.

[0167] Screen 610 also displays dial string 611. The "B" key has a numeric secondary value of "7". Thus, at this point the invention cannot determine whether the user is attempting to look up a directory record or direct-dialing a telephone number. Accordingly, in addition to displaying filtered directory records, screen 610 also displays the number "7" as part of dial string 611. If the user is in fact direct-dialing a number, he or she will regard the display of dial string 611 as feedback in response to his or her keystrokes. Conversely, if the user is attempting directory lookup, he or she will regard lookup string field 605, along with the filtered result records 601, as feedback in response to keystrokes. By providing both forms of feedback concurrently, the invention allows the user to proceed with assurance that his or her actions are being correctly interpreted, despite the fact that neither of the two modes (directory lookup or direct-dial) has been explicitly specified.

[0168] In one embodiment, dial string 611 is displayed in a different font or visual style than is used for directory records, so as to indicate to the user that dial string 611 is not representative of a matching record.

[0169] Still attempting to zero in on "Birch, John", the user now presses the "I" key. At this point, screen 620 is displayed, as depicted in Fig. 6C. Screen 620 shows the results of the filtering operation on the directory using the lookup

string "BI", and therefore now includes records that begin with "BI". Again, additional records that begin with "BI" may be accessible via scrolling. Now, two records are displayed: Biff Henderson (since the first name begins with "BI") and John Birch (since the last name begins with "BI"). Lookup string field 605 now shows "bi". Dial string 611 is displayed as well, and now reads "73", since the "I" key has a numeric secondary value of "3". Since the invention still cannot determine whether the user is performing directory lookup or direct-dial, both forms of feedback are still displayed.

[0170] Next, the user presses the "R" key. At this point, screen 630 is displayed, as depicted in Fig. 6D. Screen 630 shows the results of the filtering operation on the directory using the lookup string "BIR", and therefore now includes records that begin with "BIR". Again, additional records that begin with "BIR" may be accessible via scrolling. However, in the example shown, only one record matches the filter: John Birch. Thus, John Birch's first listed telephone number is now highlighted 601. Lookup string field 605 now shows "bir". Since the "R" key does not have a numeric secondary value, the invention can now infer that the user is not direct-dialing a number, and therefore dial string 611 is no longer displayed. However, if the user were to now press backspace key 203, deleting the "R", the state of the display would revert to screen 620, depicted in Fig. 6C.

[0171] Now that the user has successfully pinpointed the record he or she was interested in, he or she presses space bar 207 or enter key 204 to dial the